over sanitation and other matters just like the Town Improvement Committees. The depressed classes should be well represented in the Panchayat Courts. The Hindu judges of the Panchayat Courts should be invested with powers of inspection and supervision of management in Hindu temples. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Courts should be raised from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50. So far as the Parur Panchayat Court was concerned, the Member submitted that its jurisdiction was too small. Either the area of the Parur Court should be enlarged so as to include it in the *pakuthies* of the whole taluk or at least Vadakekkara, Parur, Kottuvally and Ezhikkara *pakuthies*. If that was not possible, two Panchayat Courts should be opened in the whole taluk. As the term of membership of judges would expire at the end of 1095, the opportunity should be taken to have the judges elected by the people from among the tax-payers of the respective *pakuthies*, each *pakuthi* having one judge in the Court. The President also should be elected by the judges. The Member here mentioned that the Parur Panchayat Court recommended to the High Court to extend its territorial jurisdiction and enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction to Rs. 50 and that no final orders had yet been passed.

(2) The Panchayat Courts should be invested with Magisterial powers up to third class. The Tahsildars found very little time to attend to revenue matters and wanted relief from their magisterial duties. If the Panchayat Courts could not be invested with powers to try criminal cases, then a Bench of Honorary Magistrates should be instituted as in British India.

(3) Under the existing arrangements for the trial of criminal offences, the presiding officer in a Court was both judge and jury which was not desirable for an impartial administration of justice. The introduction of trial by jury was the best way to solve the difficulty.

(4) The separation of Devaswom from Magisterial functions was a much-needed reform for the simple reason that there was no efficient management of the Devaswoms at all by the Tahsildars whose hands were otherwise full. Certain sections now complained that they had no access to the Land Revenue Department because of the management of Hindu temples vested in the Tahsildars. Their grievances could also be redressed.

(5) Greater attention should be paid to the patrolling of constables during night.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(3) Criminal Justice.

40. Desirability of investing the local Tahsildar with First Class Magisterial powers.

Mr. Ittan Krishnan (Member, Shertallay taluk) thanked the Government for having made the local Tahsildar a First Class Magistrate also. He requested that two more Police Stations might be established—one at Kunjithai and the other at Thanneermukam. The former was close to the beach where there was a large population among whom thefts seemed to be frequent. If a station were established, it would go a long way to stop crime. Thanneermukkam was frequented by a large number of steam and other boats, which, in the course of their journeys to and fro, used to halt there for both landing and taking passengers. That was also the place where accidents often occurred. The necessity for a Police Station there was great. A large number of cases from that place were being filed in the Magistrate's Court.

Dewan's reply.—The representation will be referred to the Police Commissioner for report.

41. Establishment of a Stationary Magistrate's Court at Muvattupuzha and the investing of the Tahsildar with First Class Magisterial powers.

Mr. Mathai Abraham (Member, Muvattupuzha taluk) thanked the Government for sanctioning the establishment of a Stationary Magistrate's Court at Muvattupuzha. He then pointed out that the taluk was under the jurisdiction of the First Class Magistrate at Perumbavur, the head-quarters of the Kunnathnad

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